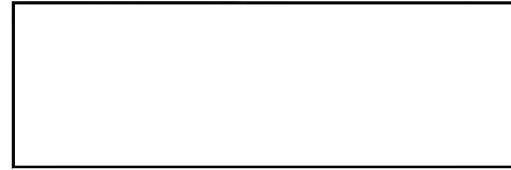


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CHILE: Salvador Allende's steadily increasing hold on the presidency since winning a narrow electoral plurality has been strengthened by the attack on General Schneider and will be confirmed by a decisive majority in congress today.

Most Chileans were outraged by the shooting of the respected army chief. The US Embassy reports that the shooting will strengthen Allende's position with the armed forces, the political parties, and the public. His representatives have been given key security posts and will play a major role in the extensive search for the attackers.

There have been widespread rumors that some attempt would be made to prevent Allende's succession to power. These reports provided the already influential Communist and other leftist propagandists with material for a barrage of charges that "rightist plotters" and "foreign agents" would attempt some desperate action. They now claim that they have been proven right.

Allende's preoccupation with restoring confidence in the shaken Chilean economy has already led him to make overtures to foreign investors established in strategic industries. These and other moves are likely to arouse opposition from elements of his Popular Unity (UP) coalition. Internal UP squabbling has already delayed the announcement of Allende's cabinet.

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